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For the Journal.

MESSRS. EDITORS.—The seventy-fifth anniversary of American Independence has again been celebrated at the little village of South Washington. Early upon the morning of the 4th, a large and respectable portion of the people of the District, and of the low-land and Duplin county, of both sexes, assembled together at the village. About eleven o'clock, a procession was formed at Mr. HARRIS'S store, and marched down to Mr. SUTHERLAND'S house, where a large number of ladies were seated. After the order of the day had been announced by the marshal, the Mecklenburg Declaration was read by E. T. PIERCE, Esq., the National Declaration of Independence by R. BARNERMAN, Esq., and an Oration delivered by Dr. BARKER. We had no bells to toll, no cannons to fire, in honor of the occasion; but it did seem, from the countenances of the auditory, that they still heard the tolling of the bells and the roaring of the cannon that marked the celebration of the day in 1784, after the ratification of the treaty of 1783, which crowned our revolutionary struggle by restoring peace to the nation.

Thus has the seventy-fifth anniversary of American Independence been celebrated by the people of the United States and Territories in union and in peace. May each succeeding anniversary be celebrated in the same manner, until time shall be no more.

A SPECTATOR.

Curious Facts.
It is a singular fact, that within a space of a little over nine years, there have been six Presidents of the United States.—Van Buren, March 3, 1841; Taylor from March 4, 1841, to April 4, 1842; Tyler from April 4, 1841, to March 4, 1845; Polk from March 4, 1845, to March 4, 1849; Taylor from March 4, 1849, to July 7, 1850; and on the 10th of July, 1850, Millard Fillmore succeeded to the office. Previous to that time, there had been but eight occupants of the office during the period of fifty-two years. The periods of service, age, &c., of the various Presidents, from Washington to Taylor, inclusive, are given below:

Service.	Retired.	Disability.	Age at death.
Washington.....	1797	1799	68
John Adams.....	1801	1802	68
Jefferson.....	1809	1810	69
Madison.....	1817	1818	68
Monroe.....	1825	1826	68
J. Q. Adams.....	1829	1830	72
Jackson.....	1837	1845	70
Van Buren.....	1841	1841	69
Harrison.....	1841	1841	69
Polk.....	1849	1849	54
Taylor.....	1850	1850	66

Biographical Sketch of the Life of Gen. Zachary Taylor.—Gen. Zachary Taylor was born in Orange county, Virginia, on the 24th day of November, 1784. He was the third son of Col. Richard Taylor, a Virginian, and an officer in the Virginia line, who served with zeal and honor throughout the Revolution—and who was the father of five sons and four daughters. His mother was Sarah Strother, a lady of good family and manly virtues. In the summer following Gen. Taylor's birth, his father migrated to Kentucky, then almost a wilderness, and settled near Louisville, and, when that city rose to wealth and importance, the elder Taylor received from Gen. Washington the appointment of adjutant-general of the army, having been a personal friend of that illustrious man, prior to his emigration from Virginia. The youth of Gen. Taylor was spent amidst the perils and hardships of Indian warfare; and he was reared, by his father, to his paternal profession—that of a farmer—until his majority. He soon, however, exhibited a military propensity, and was raised to the rank of Major in a regiment in a troop raised to oppose the designs of Aaron Burr. On the 3d of May, 1808, by the influence of his relative, Mr. Madison, his uncle, Major Edmund Taylor, and his father, he received his commission as first lieutenant of the 7th Regiment of U. S. Infantry, vacated by the death of his brother, Lieut. Taylor. He reported himself to Gen. Wilkinson at New Orleans, where he nearly died of yellow fever. In 1810, he was actively engaged under Gen. Harrison, then Governor of the Northwest Territory, at Fort Harrison, in watching and thwarting the adverse movements of the Indians—his marriage having then taken place, and he leaving at home a young wife and child. In the beginning of the year 1812, President Madison rewarded his services with a Captain's commission, and he was placed in command of Fort Harrison, just before the declaration of war against Great Britain. Here the young hero acquired his first laurels, having distinguished himself by a most gallant and successful defence of the Fort, on the night of the 19th and 20th of September, 1812, against a large party of Indians, led by the Prophet, Tecumseh's brother. His services on this occasion, were thus noticed by Gen. Hopkins:—"The firm and almost unparalleled defence of Fort Harrison, by Capt. Zachary Taylor, has raised for him a fabric of character not to be effaced by eulogy."—and President Madison rewarded his gallantry by conferring on him the Brevet rank of Major. He was engaged in the same vicinity to the close of the war; but, while acting a highly useful part in protecting the Indian frontier from incursion, no further opportunity occurred to enable him to signalize himself further.

After peace was restored, the reduction of the military establishment led to the injustice of reducing the rank of Gen. Taylor, and of many other brave officers—and he resigned his commission, but, in the course of a year, he was reinstated by President Madison, as Major Taylor, he was ordered, in 1816, to Green Bay, and remained in command of that post for two years. On the 20th April, 1819, he was made Major Colonel. He next joined his wife at New Orleans; and, in 1822, was engaged in the work of Fort Jessup. In 1824, he was appointed a member of the board for the erection of the Jefferson Barracks. In 1826, he was an active member of a Board of Officers of the Army and Militia, of South-western States, and was promoted to the rank of Colonel; and, on the 24th August of that year, he distinguished himself under Gen. Atkinson, in the defeat, ultimately followed by the capture, of the Indian Chief and Warrior, Black Hawk. In 1836, he was ordered to Florida, under Gen. Jessup, and was largely instrumental in the prosecution of a protracted war, with the Seminoles, to a successful issue—Indian warfare, which had been the grave of reputation to many of his predecessors, having only succeeded to burnish his escutcheon. The battle of Okechobee, fought on the 25th December, 1835, covered him with honor, and was followed by his promotion to the rank of Brigadier-General, and his assignment (Gen. Jessup having retired from it) to the chief command in Florida. After four years' arduous service in this field, he was relieved by Gen. Armstrong in April, 1840, and assumed the command of the First Department of the Army, comprising the South-western States, with his headquarters at Fort Jessup, in Louisiana. In 1841, he relieved Gen. Arbuckle, at Fort Gibson, where he remained about four or five years.

The next field of Gen. Taylor's service was that which was crowned with such a succession of victories, under the most difficult and perilous circumstances, as covered him with glory, and established his reputation as one of the great Captains of the age. In the summer of 1845, Texas having accepted the terms of the Texas Treaty, which was ordered by the Texas frontier, and in course of time events followed the brilliant achievements of Palo Alto, Re-

saca de la Palma, Monterey, and Buena Vista—which paved the way for Gen. Scott's gallant and scientific completion of the conquest of Mexico. Returning home, from the multiplied victories, which had rendered his war-path one continuous blaze of glory, Gen. Taylor was nominated for the Presidency, by a portion of his grateful and admiring countrymen, and was triumphantly elected to that proud and elevated station; and, on the 4th March, 1848, he, who had passed his entire adult life in the tented field, was installed President of this great Republic. As a civil ruler, his career was too short to enable him to develop his policy, and we therefore do not regard it as a fair subject of criticism. So far as his principles and measures of administration were made known, and especially those in relation to the controversy now embittering and endangering the Union, they met not our approval, and we believe they were unfortunate and unwise. But we doubt not the patriotism and good intentions of the glorious old hero, and we will not mingle a reproach with the laurels that cluster in profusion about his grave. It was to be expected that the great warrior, who had spent only his camps and battle fields, during a long life, could be at once converted into a statesman.—We believe, in his own dying words, that "he had endeavored to do his duty"—and that his patriot heart beat true to the country, for which he had lived and fought with even in the article of death. Gen. Taylor was born March 24, 1784, and died July 9, 1850, aged 65 years 7 months and 15 days. He was inaugurated President, March 4, 1849, and therefore held the office exactly one year, 4 months and five days. He has been already succeeded in the office by the Vice President, the Hon. Millard Fillmore, of New York.

This is the second anniversary of such an event in our history. Gen. William Henry Harrison was inaugurated President, March 4, 1845, and died April 4, 1845, holding the office but "a little month," and he was succeeded for the residue of his term by Vice President John Tyler, of Virginia.

HON. MILLARD FILLMORE, now by the Constitution President of the United States, was born in Summer Hill, Cayuga county, New York, July 7th, 1815. His father was a farmer, and he was a farmer still living in Erie county, New York. Mr. Fillmore spent four years, in early life, in working at the clothier's trade, and during that time devoted all his leisure hours to reading and study. At the age of nineteen, he attracted the notice of Judge Wood, of Cayuga county, who took him to his office, and he was admitted to the bar, and entered a law office, teaching for his maintenance until the year 1823, when he was licensed to practice in the Court of Common Pleas. In 1827, he was admitted an attorney of the Supreme Court of the State of New York. In 1829, he was elected a member of the Assembly from the 12th district, and he was elected to Congress in the fall of 1832, and after the expiration of his term resumed the practice of his profession. In 1836, he was again sent to Congress, and was subsequently re-elected for another term. During this session, he was placed at the head of the Committee of Ways and Means. In 1844, he was nominated by the Whig party as their candidate for President, and he was elected President of the United States, and on the 5th March 1849, he entered upon the duties of the office.

English Settlements in the South Pacific.
With all the progressiveness that is admitted to be inherent in the Anglo-Saxon character, we confess our surprise at what has been accomplished by that race in the remote regions of the Southern Pacific ocean. So remote are those colonies from European contact, through restricted colonial intercourse with the "mother country," that the greater part of the world are not posted up in the affairs of the people of the empire. It is well known, that Van Dieman's Land, and New Zealand, there is a population who speak the English language, not far from three millions in number. Like ourselves, they have founded an empire, that ere many years, will shake off the thralldom of British rule, and establish a republic of freemen. Already their presses teem with articles against the misgovernment under which they labor, for boldness of tone, and spirit, not unworthy of Hancock and Adams. And what is worthy of notice too, is the coincidence of grievances between ours of 1776 and those of the present South Pacific colonies. A spirited paper published at Port Nicholson, New Zealand, called the "Independent," boldly says, "the government has created a multitude of new offices, and sent swarms of officers to harass us and eat up our substance." The Nelson Examiner, published in the same country, writing on the subject, declares that office after office is created, for no earthly reason, in the majority of instances, but to help to squander the public revenue. "The language of the English papers in those colonies, soon is a good deal like they talked once upon a time in our own country."

One of the greatest sources of complaint among the colonists, is the attempt of the Home Government to inundate them with convicts. This they unitedly resist in all the British settlements of the Southern ocean; declaring they will not have their society contaminated with them. [We are afraid that the Home Government's subjects have turned their attention this way.] The colony of New Zealand is one of the most remarkable settlements ever established by any European enterprise. In 1840 this country was scarcely known; it at only as a land of cannibals. In 1850, New Zealand is a portion of the civilized world—ships visit her from all parts of the globe. On the 22d of January, 1840, the first settlers entered the harbor of Port Nicholson, N. Z. They came from a little island far beyond the seas, to found a new home for humanity in a hitherto barbarous and savage land—the vanguard of that race whose members are yet destined to overrun all the islands of the Pacific, and found republics in their several groups. In N. Zealand nearly a dozen papers are printed in the English language, and one of the best of the periodicals bears the impress of business communities and are supported alone by the people, being generally opposed to the government. In literary and religious publications they are not a whit behind their Anglo-Saxon brethren of other quarters of the globe. The "New Zealand Review," called the "New Zealand Magazine," and from the table of contents of the January number we should judge the articles to be of a high order. There is also a monthly published at Wellington, called the "New Zealand Evangelist," conducted by the ministers of the "Evangelical Alliance" of Wellington; besides other publications of religious and literary nature. We see plenty of notices of boarding schools, fancy societies, literary institutes, jockey clubs, &c. This is all in a colony of ten years standing.

We verily believe the time is not far distant when Australia, Van Dieman's Land, and New Zealand will form a counterpoise to our own empire, and the counterpart of ourselves in all that distinguishes us in our career of national greatness.

San Francisco Pacific News.

Coasting up an Expression.
A brace of "lovers" anxious to secure each other shadowed the substance faded, and in a Daguerreotype establishment recently, to sit for their "pictures." The lady gave precedence to her swain, who, she said, "had got to be tucked fast and real tight." He brushed up his head of hair, gave a twist or two to his handkerchief, asked his gal if his shirt collar stood about X, and planted himself in the operator's chair, where he soon assumed the physiognomy of a poor mortal in a dentist's hands, and about to part with one of his eye teeth. "Now, dew look purty!" begged the lady, casting at him one of her most languishing glances. The picture was taken, when produced, it resembled the girl, as she expressed it. "Just like Josh looked when he got over the measles!" and as this was not an era in her suitor's history particularly worthy of his commendation, she insisted that "he should stand it again." He obeyed, and she attended him to the chair. "Josh," said she, "just look like smilin and then kin der don't." The poor fellow tried to follow his indefinite injunction. "La!" she said, "why you look all pucker'd up." One direction followed another, but with as little success. At last growing impatient, and becoming desperate, she resolved to try an expedient which she considered infallible, and exclaimed, "I don't keer if there is folks around." She was joined at the operator's stand ready at his camera, she then sat in her feller's lap, and placing her arms around his neck, managed to cast a shower of flaxen ringlets, as a screen between the operator and her proceedings, which, however, were betrayed by a succession of amorous sounds which revealed her expedient. When this "billion and cooing" had lasted a few minutes, the cunning girl jumped from her feller, and clapping her hands, cried to the astonished artist—"Now you have got him! put him through!"

Welcome as Flowers in May.
At day's declining, a maid sat twining
A garland shining with wild flowers gay;
But her heart it was sore, and the tears welled o'er
Her eye, at the door, on that eve in May.

"And look," she cried, to her young heart's pride,
"From your plighted bride, on this holy day,
A true-love token of fond vows spoken
That may not be broken—these flowers of May."

"In life and in death, if you hold to your faith,
Keep ever this wreath, 'till be sweet in decay;
Come poor or with wealth, come in sickness or health,
To my heart you'll be welcome as flow'rs in May."

"Yet, oh! if ever, when wide seas sever
Our hearts, you waver in faith to me,
A true Irish maid will never upbraid
Affection betrayed—from that hour you're free!"

"I set small store upon golden ore,
I'll not love you the more for your wealth from the sea;
The hand that will toll at our own loved soil,
Free from crime or from spoil, is the hand for me!"

The blessing half spoke, her fast tears choke,
And strong sobs broke the young man's pray;
One blessing of hearts, and the youth departs—
The maid weeps alone in the silent air.

Full many a score that maid counted o'er
Of day-dawns and night-falls—year to the day;
When, sadly, once more, at the seat by the door,
Stood the youth as before, on that eve in May.

For the love of that maid, wherever he strayed,
Kept his soul from stain, and his hands from guilt;
Like an angel from God, till his feet dwelt
The cherished soil where first love dwelt.

"I bring you no store of the bright gold ore,
But, poor as before, I return to decay,
For my bride I've no wealth but bread and health,
Hopes without end and the flowers of May."

The maiden has proved her true love to her true,
Her joyful haste no doubts delay;
In his arms she sighs, "Thyself I prize,
To my heart you are welcome as flowers in May!"

Descriptive Elocution.
"Our country," 'tis of thee,
"Ma'am," said a free-spoken, warm-hearted, enthusiastic, and rather quizzical son of old Kentucky, while paying his devotions to one of the famous lady tourists of America, "Ma'am, you should have been born in America, the greatest country in the world. Nature has clustered all her stupendous and dazzling works upon this land, and you should be among them! We have got the greatest men, the finest women, the broadest lakes, the tallest trees, the widest prairies, the highest waterfalls, and the biggest bears in all creation."

"Ma'am," said he, "I don't think I'd waked up in future life when I first seed that big stentorian poodle! (stentorian is an algebra word, ma'am—you may not know it.) Why, ma'am, I could tell you something about them Falls—but you mustn't put it in your book, 'cos nobody will ever believe it. The people that live round about there all lose their speech, and never hear of other people for years, with the noise of the cataract. Fact ma'am, true as that's a pencil and a note-book you're taking out of your pocket. Why, there was a man lived there ten years, and he got so deaf he never knew a man was speaking to him till a pail of water was poured down the back of his neck! When you go to see the Falls, ma'am, you must do all the talking you want to be heard, 'cos the noise of the water is so loud, that after that, not a word of any kind can be heard."

"Then, ma'am, you should go and see the great cave in Kentucky, where the bats hibernaculate in countless millions. There is not so much another hole in the ground to be found upon the face of the earth. Ma'am, if you go back to England without seeing the Mammoth Cave, you'll put your feet in it—no, beg your pardon, excuse me—that's quite impossible, but you'll leave a big hole in the book you are going to write. There was no end known to it, ma'am, and there is a salt water lake in the middle of it, twenty-five miles broad. One of the rooms is called the 'Antipodean Chamber,' from the unpronounceable fact that a man can walk just as easy on the ceiling as upon the floor, and in this apartment, there's a natural fountain of pure brine!"

"The same cave, is a positive cure for consumption." "You haint been South yet, have you, ma'am?" "You haint seen the Mississippi river and the city of New Orleans? Well, ma'am, New Orleans is a hundred and twenty-five feet below the level of the sea, and the Mississippi runs there—that's quite impossible over the city! The inhabitants are chiefly sailors and screech owls, the last words have been vulgarly perverted into Creole. The food is chiefly gum, produced from trees in the swamp, and which they call gumbo. There is a paper called the Picaroon, the name being very significant, 'tis a professed piracy upon the name of the famous Baron Munchausen, the Pilgrim's Progress, Joe Miller, Washington Irving and Bell's Life in London. It is a violent and stupendous political print, and the Government of the country has endeavored in vain to suppress it. One of the peculiar marks about this extraordinary city is the entire absence of those small quadrupeds which the sheep-eaters know as rats. There was seen many years ago, by a citizen, who brutally murdered the unknown creature; but was immediately tried and sentenced to be hung for the enormity."

"This farm is generally rather level; but there are many knolls of greater or less height. The level part is not subject to become very dry, except at the surface; the knolls are lighter, and in some instances the soil is liable to be moved by wind. After they have once been set in clover and pastured with sheep, they remain stationary. Where clearings have already been made, the lightest knolls, where the soil would be most likely to be blown, have been left in trees, and the underbrush being removed, these little groves, covering the principal eminences, give the fields a picturesque and parklike appearance."

European Taxation.
The Edinburgh Review contains some important statements of the movement of the taxing power in Europe in the last 35 years. At the close of the great European war, the taxes of Great Britain amounted to four hundred millions of dollars annually. They are now three hundred and fifty millions, a reduction of 36 per cent. But the property and population have augmented so much in that period that the rate of taxation has been diminished 53 per cent—more than one-half.

From the peace till the year 1845, Great Britain has repaid taxes to the amount of one hundred and eighty millions of dollars annually, a sum that exceeds by one hundred millions the whole revenue of Austria—by eighty-five millions of dollars the whole revenue of Russia; and by one hundred and thirty millions the whole revenue of the U. S. States.

On the other hand the expenditure of France has risen from two hundred and thirty millions in 1815, to three hundred and fifty millions; and has, within the last twenty years, so much exceeded her revenue that a deficit of two hundred millions of dollars has been incurred.

In 1815, the exports of domestic produce from Great Britain amounted to one hundred and eighty millions of dollars; in 1845, nearly three hundred millions of dollars. The registered tonnage increased from 2,616,000 in 1814 to 4,052,000 in 1848.

These facts do not indicate that decline, either in the wealth or power of Great Britain, which some of our statesmen have insisted on so much. **MODEST CLERK.**—A young lady, with mind intent on shopping, entered a store on a certain occasion, and, addressing a fresh-looking rosy-cheeked youth, desired to know if he had any nice silk hose. "Certainly, Miss," replied he; and immediately the cunning girl, who was looking up at him anxiously, enquired, "How high do they come sir?"

The clerk blushed, turned in fact all sorts of colors, but spoke not a word. She gave him a look of surprise, and repeated her question. Again the youth started, stammered, and said, "Really, Miss, I—that is to say, I think—could not be positive, but my impression is, that they come just above—the knee."

They both fainted on the spot.

WHY 'TIS WORSE TO MARRY THAN TO DIE.—"I'll tell you. He that's dead is happy. He's housed and settled forever. He dreads no winter nor capricious summer—alike to him are praise, scorn, flattery, want, abundance, and the stealthy creepings on of old age. But he that's married—Oh Lord! he's perpetually miserable. The chimney always smokes, the roof leaks, everything is either too early or too late, or too good for him. He's a pitiable wretch, and coward to boot, for he fears that every little cloud in the domestic heavens(?) will burst upon him in a tempest of tongue!"

Smith.

Young ladies should never object to being kissed by *Prætor*, as this will make every allowance for the freedom of the Press.

Agricultural.
From the Granite Farmer.

CHARACTER AND TREATMENT OF SANDY SOILS.
The character of sandy soils is thus summed up by a writer in the first volume of the American Agriculturist:—"It is first requisite to ascertain their general deficiencies. These are both mechanical and chemical. They are totally destitute of that compactness and adhesiveness, essential firmly to secure the roots of plants; and incapable, from the want of intimate contact, of conveying to them the liquid nutriment necessary to their growth. They are leachy, allowing the rains that fall upon them to evaporate speedily, or sink far beneath the surface beyond the reach of the thirsty roots. They are equally wasteful of manures added to them, yielding their rich gasses at the first demand that is made, whether it be from the dissolving rains or the exhausting heat, and this renders it necessary, when cultivated in crops, that the manure should be applied only just before putting in the seed."

They possess a white, glazed surface, which is unfavorable to absorbing the heat from the sun's rays, and conveying the desired warmth to stimulate the absorbent vessels beneath the surface; and equally incapable of a rapid evaporation of heat when the influence of the sun is withdrawn, thereby failing to create a capillary heat.

Sandy soils are generally deficient in some of the ingredients necessary to the perfection of many forms of vegetable life. It will be borne in mind that sand contains, as its principal element, silica. Quartz, the disintegration of which sand is mostly found, contains from 90 to 95 per cent of silica. To render sandy soils chemically able to produce crops, the various elements must be added to them. The natural corrective of a sandy soil in both its chemical and mechanical relations, clay, is generally found in the neighborhood of sands, most likely underlying them. It is not so much that it can be put upon each land at a rate that the best advantage can be made of it, as that it is the best corrective that can be made. Lime, gypsum, ashes, salt, charcoal, bones, muck, marl, &c., are valuable applied to sandy soils. For further particulars on this point, the reader is referred to an article re-written for this journal on the "Management of Sandy Soils."

We wish to leave room for a full extract from the last article in the June number of the Albany Cultivator. We have many acres of nearly worthless sandy land that might be redeemed in the manner suggested below with profit to the owners of the land. Several trials have been made in cultivating the sandy plains near Albany, which deserve notice. Mr. Mel. began farming on this land in 1846, and in 1847 he had 900 acres of land, eight miles from Albany, which came into his possession about ten years since, at \$10 an acre. It was then mostly covered with pitch pines, generally of small size, the whole growth not amounting to over twelve or fifteen cords of wood to the acre. In some places, the growth was only small bushes, and scattering shrub-oaks. Mr. Mel. began farming on this land in 1846, and in 1847 he had 900 acres of land, eight miles from Albany, which came into his possession about ten years since, at \$10 an acre. 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